

BOOK REVIEWS

Consultations in Dermatology II with Walter B. Shelley, by Walter B. Shelley, M.D. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, London, Toronto, 1974. (333 pp, \$12.00)

The first volume of *Consultations in Dermatology* appeared in 1972; this second volume has essentially the same format. An array of some fifty cases (none duplicated) is discussed in a very personalized fashion by the author, who presents a brief case history, a discussion of the case, and a discussion of the entity. Each discussion is two or three pages in length, and the case is illustrated by a single, full-page, black-and-white, close-up photograph of generally excellent quality. An extensive, appropriate, and succinctly annotated bibliography (including references as late as 1973) is located at the end of each of the fifty chapters. The entities vary from the banal to the fatal, from the common to the rare. The goal was well expressed in the preface to the first volume: "Modern clinical teaching discourages the formal lecture, the structured text, and turns instead to the primary stimulus for all medical learning, i.e., the patient. Accordingly, this volume of consultations is evolved to bring you directly to our patients (albeit in black-and-white) and in turn to our best thoughts about them and their diseases." The preface to the current volume states the author's "hope that you would join us again on rounds." That indeed expresses the tenor of the text, although there are few men alive who could conduct rounds in the clinic or the in-patient service and achieve such a complete discussion of the case as the author does in this text. But it is similar to rounds in that the cases are presented in random array, the discussion is quite personal, and it does not pretend to be a classic textbook description of the entity from A to Z. Rather, this is a discussion in which pertinent points are brought out, recent medical developments are cited, and the interest of the audience is stimulated. At times I find the prose a bit too florid, but that may be a purely personal reaction.

In general, one can find little fault with the diagnostic and therapeutic recommendations offered for the cases, although it is inevitable in such a personal volume that different individuals might approach some of the cases in a different fashion. For example, in the case of pityriasis rubra pilaris, there is no mention of the fact that some cases which are clinically typical of pityriasis rubra pilaris respond to topical therapy with tar, ultravi-

olet light, and topical steroids under occlusion, in the same fashion as psoriasis. When cases so respond, one would be reluctant to use the pharmacologic doses of vitamin A of 300,000 to 500,000 units daily, or antimetabolites such as methotrexate and azathioprine. One could also comment that the methotrexate in the 5-mg daily oral dose suggested here might not be the safest schedule from the point of view of hepatotoxicity. On the other hand, it is clear that the author does not regard these case discussions as a complete "cook-book" guide to therapy, but provides adequate references for further reading and specific information. These should be especially useful as a quick guide to pertinent literature. One major problem is not knowing in advance whether or not a given entity would be included in one of these volumes, since each selects only fifty to discuss.

The concept of using a specific patient as a focal point for discussion of a disease is a proven success in clinical teaching at the bedside, on ward rounds, and in the conference room. Its adaptation to book form is a commendable effort.

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Funktionelle Dermatologie, by G. Stüttgen and H. Schaefer. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, and New York, 1974. (530 pp, 120 illustrations, 338 tables)

The dermatologist Stüttgen and the dermatologic biochemist Schaefer present a new approach to the study of diseases of the skin in a volume entitled *Functional Dermatology*.

In their introductory remarks the authors state that the concept of functional dermatology relates normal and pathologic processes of human skin to factors which can be demonstrated physiologically and biochemically. The skin, as no other organ, is easily accessible to studies of structure, function, and pharmacanalysis; however, morphology, the strongest pillar of dermatology, will remain.

Individual chapters, thoroughly oriented toward physiology and biochemistry but also directed to the clinical approach, deal with structure, metabolism, hormones, nerves, circulation, allergy, electrobiology, and microbial flora of skin. Climate and skin, skin diseases due to age, occupation, and radiation are discussed. In a chapter on pharmacologic bases of dermatologic therapy, the authors

describe a complete up-to-date dermatologic pharmacology.

At the end of each chapter important pertinent literature is cited. Interspersed with the text are 120 drawings and 338 tables which facilitate understanding. The final chapter of 63 pages is an alphabetically arranged register of all common and some less common dermatoses in outline form with references to the text. An extensive index of 43 pages allows quick orientation concerning text, tables, and register of dermatoses.

This erudite book is not easy reading. It cannot replace a dermatologic textbook of predominantly clinical character. The volume is, however, remarkable for its scope and mastery over details of physiology and biochemistry of skin diseases, hitherto not assembled in one presentation. This treatise will provoke new avenues of discussion leading toward yet unknown interpretations and unexplored horizons. This is an important German text that an English-speaking dermatologist conversant with the German language would find useful.

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Lehrbuch der Hautkrankheiten und venerischen Infektionen, by Th. Nasemann and W. Sauerbrey. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, and New York, 1974. (401 pp, 300 illustrations)

Nasemann and Sauerbrey have published a textbook of *Skin Diseases and Venereal Infections* directed to the medical student and general practitioner.

Each disease is described in a concise form as to definition, etiology, pathogenesis, complications, differential diagnosis, and therapy. Only those diseases which are imperative to the knowledge of student and practitioner are discussed. Included are chapters on andrology and proctology. A separate area of text is devoted to basic concepts of dermatologic therapy and to selected standard dermatologic prescriptions.

It is commendable that the authors point to autoinoculation for the diagnosis of chancroid if there is difficulty in finding the Ducrey-Unna streptobacillus. On page 277, gelatin is recommended as a growth stimulant for onycholysis, etc. I find this treatment of no value.

An index is added for quick orientation. The text is interspersed with 300 instructive black and white illustrations as well as with drawings, charts, tables, light and electron microscopic photographs.

Paper, print, and format of this soft-bound compendium are excellent. This volume has all the qualities of a good textbook and reference work for

the German-speaking medical student and general practitioner.

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Fortschritte der praktischen Dermatologie und Venerologie. Edited by O. Braun-Falco and D. Petzoldt. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, and New York, 1973. (334 pp, 66 illustrations; soft-bound, \$32.00)

The seventh volume of *Progress in Practical Dermatology and Venereology*, edited by Braun-Falco and Petzoldt, contains all the lectures given at the seventh postgraduate course of the Dermatologic Clinic of the University of Munich, held July 22-27, 1973.

Thirty-nine German, one American, two Austrian, one Belgian, one Polish, and two Swiss dermatologists give up-to-date reviews of the following subjects: skin carcinoma, pseudocanceroses and pseudosarcomatoses of skin, external dermatologic therapy, phlebology, andrology, polyetiologic skin reactions, occupational skin protection, dermatologic roentgen therapy, and what's new in practical dermatology.

Naturally, this volume is of foremost benefit to German-speaking dermatologists, but it should be interesting to American dermatologists, conversant with German, to read the various lectures by prominent European dermatologists.

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The Structure and Function of Skin. Third Edition. William Montagna and Paul F. Parakkal. Academic Press, New York and London, 1974. (433 pp, \$27.00)

It is a great pleasure to see that the third edition of this book is better than even the superb earlier editions. The book's general format is the same as in the second edition with individual chapters on the epidermis, dermis, cutaneous nerves, pilary apparatus, nails, sebaceous glands, apocrine glands, and eccrine glands. Hair changes in protein malnutrition are described in detail by Robert Bradfield and this is an excellent addition to the book. The short 6½-page section on blood vessels of the second edition is expanded into a definitive chapter in this edition.

The most remarkable feature of this text is that it has more factual material and more references than the second edition and yet is shorter. Most chapters have been completely reworked with many new figures and illustrations present in this edition with an emphasis on electron micrographs. The scanning electron micrographs of the hair, and close-up micrographs of dissected hair bulbs and